

CONFIDENTIAL

14 APRIL 1958 NSC BRIEFING
ON SOVIET GUIDED MISSILES

I. CURRENT US ESTIMATE ON SOVIET ICBM (SNIE 11-10-57, 10 December 1957)

1. We estimate that sometime during the period mid-1958 to mid-1959, the USSR will have a first operational capability with up to 10 prototype ICBM's with characteristics approximately as follows: high yield nuclear warhead, maximum range about 5500 nautical miles (Army believes at least 3800-4500 nautical miles with development to longer range later), CEP of 5 nautical miles or less at maximum range, and a system reliability of about 50 percent.

2. ICBM's could probably be produced, launching facilities completed, and operational units trained at a rate sufficient to give the USSR an operational capability with 100 ICBM's about one year after its first operational date, and with 500 ICBM's about two or at most three years after its first operational capability date.

II. COMMENT All evidence is being examined to see if changes should be made in the above estimates. We currently believe, however, that we must accumulate data [REDACTED] over the next 2-3 months before attempting any alteration of the above estimates.

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